

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 L-03 /059 W

----- 029392

P R 030528Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1438

INFO USCINCEUR

CSAF WASHDC

USMTM DHAHRAN

SECDEF WASHDC

ARMISH MAAG TEHRAN

CHMAAG ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3950

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, SA, IR

SUBJ: TRANSFER OF MAP F-5A/B'S

REF : A. CHMAAG ADDIS ABABA 2914445Z

B. TEHRAN 281244Z MAY 75

C. ADDIS ABABA 290615Z MAY 75

D. STATE 59790 (NOTAL)

E. JIDDA 1940 (NOTAL)

F. JIDDA 2049 (NOTAL)

G. JIDDA 2326 (NOTAL)

H. JIDDA 2385 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: WE NOTE FROM REF A THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT FROM IRAN TO ETHIOPIA WITH OVERFLIGHT AND REFUELING IN SAUDI ARABIA. WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT THE SAG WOULD APPROVE A USG REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO OVERFLY. IF IT IS THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AND NOT RPT NOT THE USG WHICH IS MAKING THE TRANSFER, BELIEVE THAT THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE THE ARRANGE-  
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MENTS THROUGH ITS EMBASSY HERE. IF THIS TRANSFER INVOLVES

A MAJOR NEW US ARMS SALE TO THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WE BELIEVE THAT IN VIEW OF OUR PAST PRACTICE OF CONSULTING WITH THE SAUDIS WE SHOULD INFORM THEM OF OUR INTENTIONS BEFORE THEY HEAR ABOUT IT THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS. END SUMMARY.

1. USCINCEUR HAS REPEATED TO US REF A ON THE SUBJECT OF THE TRANSFER OF MAP F-5A'S AND B'S TO ETHIOPIA. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED REFS B AND C. FROM THE CONTENTS OF REF A IT APPEARS THAT A NUMBER OF US-ORIGIN AIRCRAFT ARE TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM IRAN TO ETHIOPIA. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE AIRCRAFT ARE BEING GIVEN OR SOLD BY IRAN TO ETHIOPIA WITH USG CONCURRENCE OR WHETHER THE USG IS REACQUIRING THE AIRCRAFT AND TRANSFERRING THEM BY GRANT OR SALE TO ETHIOPIA.

2. IN ANY CASE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR THE AIRCRAFT TO OVERFLY SAUDI ARABIA. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT IN THE RECENT CASE OF THE AMMUNITION RESUPPLY OF THE ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES, THE SAG APOLOGETICALLY BUT VERY FIRMLY TURNED DOWN OUR REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE TO OVERFLY SAUDI AIRSPACE (REF H). WE DID NOT THEN EVEN ASK FOR LANDING AND REFUELING PERMISSION. AT THAT TIME SPORADIC FIGHTING WAS STILL GOING ON IN ERITREA, BUT WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE RELATIVE CALM NOW PREVAILING WILL MAKE THE SAUDIS ANY MORE RECEPTIVE TO OUR REQUEST, ESPECIALLY AS THE AIRCRAFT WILL PRESUMABLY BE ADDING APPRECIABLY TO THE ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES CAPABILITY WHILE THE AMMUNITION WAS DESIGNED TO REPLACE EXPENDED AMMUNITION.

3. WE MIGHT ALSO BE FACING A BIT OF A CREDIBILITY PROBLEM WITH THE SAUDIS IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THE USG IS THE SELLER OR DONOR OF THE AIRCRAFT. AT THE TIME OF THE AMMUNITION AIRLIFT WE TOLD THE SAUDIS (REFS D AND E) THAT WE WERE SELLING THE AMMUNITION PRIMARILY BECAUSE WE FELT AN OBLIGATION TO DO SO BECAUSE OF OUR LONG-TERM SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA. WE ALSO SAID THAT WE HAD NO PLANS AT THE TIME TO PROVIDE MORE THAN THE SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF AMMUNITION. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE NO PARTICULAR

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OBLIGATION TO CONSULT WITH THE SAG CONCERNING OUR ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA, THOUGH WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO CONSULT WITH THE SAG ON A REGULAR BASIS CONCERNING THE SECURITY SITUATION ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RED SEA. BUT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE THINK IT ADVISABLE TO TELL THE SAUDIS IF WE HAVE PLANS FOR REARMING THE ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES IN A WAY THE SAUDIS MIGHT CONSIDER SIGNIFICANT.

4. IF THE IRANIANS ARE PROVIDING THE AIRCRAFT AND OUR ONLY OBVIOUS ROLE IS TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER, WE THINK IT BEST TO LET THE IRANIANS MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER. WE ASSUME THAT HAVING STAGED F-5'S TO OMAN THEY HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF HANDLING IT. MOREOVER, THE IRANIANS HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SAUDIS, THEY HAVE RECENTLY BEEN DISCUSSING REGIONAL SECURITY MATTERS, AND THEY HAVE A LARGE AND EFFECTIVE EMBASSY HERE CAPABLE OF WORKING OUT DETAILS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AIRCRAFT SALES, AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1975JIDDA03950  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750193-0303  
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**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 CHMAAG ADDIS ABABA 2914445Z  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRANSFER OF MAP F-5A/B'S  
**TAGS:** MASS, US, SA, IR, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006